## Message Text

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**ACTION VO-03** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 INR-10

CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04 SY-04 FBIE-00

JUSE-00 L-03 SSO-00 INRE-00 /048 W  $\,$ 

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3712

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CVIS, NI

SUBJECT: DEPORTED NIGERIAN STUDENTS

- 1. APRIL 26 EDITION OF THE DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED BANNER HEADLINE REGARDING DEPORTATION OF SOME 100 NIGERIAN STUDENTS STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES.

  ACCORDING DAILY EXPRESS ARTICLE, STUDENTS WERE DEPORTED WITHIN PAST FORTHNIGHT AND WERE "FISHED OUT" FROM THEIR VARIOUS "HIDEOUTS" BECAUSE THEY HAD NOT FULFILLED THE NECESSARY IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR STAYING IN THE US AS WORKING STUDENTS. ARTICLE ALSO ALLEGES THAT US IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ARE NOW VISITING COMMERCIAL BANKS FOR THE PURPOSE OF TRACING STUDENTS WHO ARE HOLDING JOBS ILLEGALLY. A DEMONSTRATION BY A GROUP OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN HELD IN WASHINGTON TO PROTEST AMERICAN AUTHORITIES' HANDLING OF THE DEPORTED STUDENTS.
- 2. NO OTHER NEWSPAPER CARRIED REPORT ON DEPORTATION OF NIGERIAN STUDENTS. HOWEVER, IN AN ARTICLE DATED MARCH 10, SUNDAY SKETCH CARRIED REPORT THAT 51 NIGERIAN STUDENTS HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF INVOLVEMENT IN FRADEULENT INSURANCE CLAIMS IN CHICAGO. OF THE 51 STUDENTS 26 HAVE REPORTEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE BEEN DEPORTED. TWENTY-FIVE OTHERS CONTESTED

CHARGES AND DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN INSTITUTED AGAINST THEM. SKETCH ALSO NOTES THAT "THOUGH INSURANCE FRAUD INSPIRED DEPORTATION MOVE, OFFICIAL REASON...IS THAT NIGERIANS VIOLATED TERMS OF THEIR VISAS EITHER BY OVERSTAYING IN THE US OR HOLDING JOBS WITHOUT PERMISSION."

3. IN VIEW LIKELIHOOD THERE MAY BE QUERIES REGARDING DEPORTATION OF 100 STUDENTS REPORTED IN DAILY EXPRESS, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING EMBASSY WITH FULL INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THERE ANY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO CASES MENTIONED ABOVE. REINHARDT

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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